

Appl. No. : **10/821,580**
Filed : **April 9, 2004**

REMARKS

Claims 1, 7, 8, 12, and 14 have been amended, and Claim 21 has been added. Support can be found in paragraphs 17 (page 4), 51 (page 9), and 52 (page 10), and Figs. 1, 6, and 8, for example. The specification has been amended to correct informalities. No new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Specification

Applicant's cooperation has been requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification. The specification has been amended accordingly.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, and 7-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent 6,686,886 (Flint). Claims 1, 7, 8, and 12 are independent and have been amended.

Each independent claim as amended herein recites: "the ground pattern has at least one side edge along which at least two of the antenna elements are disposed with tips thereof directed in the same direction and with spaces provided adjacent to and in the directions of the respective tips of the antenna elements." The above structures can make possible to provide many antenna elements per area of the substrate without mutual interference among the antenna elements.

In contrast, in Flint, only one antenna element is provided on each side (see Fig. 14), and this configuration does not involve mutual interference among the antenna elements which occurs especially when two or more antenna elements are provided on one side. Thus, Flint is unrelated to the independent claims at least with respect to the above features. Flint does not teach the features of the independent claims and thus could not anticipate the independent claims and the remaining dependent claims. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Rejection of Claims 3-4, 14-17, and 19-20 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3-4, 14-17, and 19-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Flint in view of US Patent 5,909,198 (Mandai).

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Mandai is unrelated to the above-discussed features of the independent claims. Claim 14 is independent and also recites the same features. Thus, a combination of Flint and Mandai could not render the independent claims obvious. Claims 3-4, 14-17, and 19-20 depend from one of the independent claims, and at least for this reason, these claims also could not be obvious over the above references. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Rejection of Claims 5-6 and 18 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 5-6 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Flint in view of Mandai and further in view of US Patent 6,808,642 (Takaya).

Takaya is unrelated to the above-discussed features of the independent claims. Thus, a combination of Flint, Mandai, and Takaya could not render the independent claims obvious. Claims 5-6 and 18 depend from one of the independent claims, and at least for this reason, these claims also could not be obvious over the above references. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

New Claim

Claim 21 has been added. Claim 21 depends from Claim 1 and further recites "the ground pattern has another side edge along which at least two of the antenna elements are disposed with tips thereof directed in the same direction and with spaces provided adjacent to and in the directions of the respective tips of the antenna elements." These additional features are not taught or even suggested by the prior art. Claim 21 could not anticipated by or obvious over the prior art.

CONCLUSION

In light of the Applicant's amendments to the claims and the foregoing Remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining concerns which might prevent the prompt allowance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below.

Appl. No. : 10/821,580
Filed : April 9, 2004

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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